



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION VIII

999 18th STREET - SUITE 500
DENVER, COLORADO 80202-2466

JUN 30 1992

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2168051 - R8 SDMS

Ref: 8HWM-SM

MEMORANDUM

TO: Dave Schaller/Judy Wong
RCRA subtitle D program

FROM: Pat Smith, Site Assessment Manager
Superfund Technical Section

SUBJECT: Erie/Columbine Landfill
Weld County, Colorado

Pat Smith

I have completed my site work at the Erie/Columbine Landfill complex in Weld County, Colorado. There is still no case to be made for an NPL candidate under Superfund. Although we have confirmed a release to ground water in the area, we would need a very large target population since hits to the drinking wells do not have benchmarks (as is the case for the tentatively identified compounds (TICs) we found).

There are a number of TICs identified in the drinking water wells. The TICs found in source samples are generally in the volatile range while the TICs found in the drinking water wells are in the semi-volatile range. An information request was sent to IBM to better identify wastestreams which have been put into the landfill and to try to correlate these to the hits in the wells. Art Palomares (usually of EPA ESD, but on detail right now to 8HWM-SR) assisted me in analysis of the organic chemical associations. Ketones described in the 104e response may be associated with the TIC in the Horst well at return time 7.07 minutes. A TIC at return time 36.92 in the Zahn well might be a pesticide which may be associated with home use. Esters found in the drinking water wells could be from the home use of paints, and cleaning of painting equipment.

Numerous hydrocarbons reported in the 104e response could mobilize contaminants some distance. The local residents are concerned that migration could occur via cavern porosity in the coal mined area or via fracture porosity. If hydrocarbons are mobilizing the contaminants, the coal in the mines is not likely to be any kind of an effective filter for these substances.

Please share this information with your state counterparts. I will send a copy of the 104e analysis to Austin Buckingham, my

Superfund counterpart at the state. My files remain open to you as needed. A copy of the 104e response and the contractor review is attached.

Attachment

cc: Austin Buckingham